

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 08519 150218Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SSM-03
OMB-01 IO-13 /073 W

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R 140949Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 918
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 8519

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (BOLLING, LANDRUM)
SUBJECT: VISIT TO SYRIA OF LANDRUM BOLLING

REF: STATE 299469

1. DR. LANDRUM BOLLING, HEAD OF ELI LILLY FOUNDATION, VISITED SYRIA DECEMBER 12-13. HE HAD EXTENSIVE BRIEFING BY AMBASSADOR WHO ASSISTED HIM IN SECURING APPOINTMENTS WITH PRESIDENT ASAD AND DEPFONMIN KHANI. DURING TALK WITH ASAD AFTERNOON DECEMBER 13, BOLLING COMMENTED THAT THREE OPTIONS SEEMED PRESENTLY AVAILABLE TO STIMULATE FURTHER MOVEMENT TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEMS: PRIVATE DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS, UNITED NATIONS OR GENEVA CONFERENCE. ASAD AGREED AND ASSERTED THAT HE SAW NO INCONSISTENCY IN PURSUING ALL THREE SIMULTANEOUSLY. ASAD ADDED THAT SYRIAN POLICY HAD THREE GOALS: ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967, RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS AND END OF STATE OF WAR. ASAD REITERATED THAT U.S. HAD REAL OPPORTUNITY TO ACHIEVE NEGOTIATING PROGRESS DURING COMING YEAR. HE GOOD HUMOREDLY REFUSED MAKE ANY PREDICTION ABOUT TIME LIMITS ON PEACE INITIATIVE BEFORE AREA WOULD DRIFT TOWARDS WAR. NOTED THAT UNTIL 1973 ARABS HAD HAD NO FAITH IN POLITICAL SOLUTION AND SO PLANNED FOR WAR. "WE HAD TENS OF MEETINGS TO SET THE DATE FOR THE WAR AND
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EACH TIME WE SLIPPED IT", UNTIL OCTOBER 1973 WAS FINALLY

CHOSEN. SAID IT WAS THEREFORE IMPOSSIBLE TO SET A TIME LIMIT
ON THE SEARCH FOR PEACE.

2. TALKS WITH MFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR SHOEFI
AND NEW DEPFONMIN KHANI ELICITED COMMENT FROM FORMER THAT
U.S. SHOULD "GO SLOW" ON GENEVA CONFERENCE, EMPHASIZING NEED
FOR ADEQUATE PREPARATIONS NECESSARY FOR SOUND MOVEMENT TOWARD
PEACE. SHOEFI ALSO EXPRESSED LIVELY INTEREST IN REMARKS
MADE BY SOME OF PRESIDENT-ELECT'S CAMPAIGN ADVISERS ON
ME POLICY AND CONFESSED GREAT CURIOSITY AS TO PRESIDENT-
ELECT'S OWN STAND. (SHOEFI HAS BEEN PREPARING A STUDY OF
CARTER FOR ASAD.)
MURPHY

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NNN

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